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European Patent Office  
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(11) Publication number: 0 612 848 A2

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 94810104.3

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>5</sup>: C12N 15/29, C12N 15/82,  
C07K 13/00, A01H 5/00,  
C12N 5/10, C12N 1/21

(22) Date of filing: 21.02.94

(30) Priority: 24.02.93 EP 93102887

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(43) Date of publication of application:  
31.08.94 Bulletin 94/35

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(84) Designated Contracting States:  
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC  
NL PT SE

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(84) BE CH DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT  
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(54) Hyper-sensitivity related gene.

(57) The hsr203J gene of SEQ ID No. 1 and individual components thereof including its promoter and regulatory regions thereof, its coding region, its gene product; modifications thereto; applications of said gene, promoter region, regulatory region and coding region and modifications thereto; DNA constructs, vectors and transformed plants each comprising the gene or part thereof.

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This invention relates to an hsr (hypersensitivity-related) gene family and individual components thereof including its promoter and regulatory regions thereof, its coding region, its gene product; modifications thereto; applications of said gene, promoter region, regulatory region and coding region and modifications thereto; DNA constructs, vectors and transformed plants each comprising the gene or part thereof.

5       The hypersensitive reaction (HR) of higher plants is a local inducible response associated with disease resistance to a pathogen. This response is characterized by a rapid and localized necrosis of tissues invaded by an incompatible (avirulent or non-host) pathogen, which prevents further spread of the invading microorganism. Several defense genes whose products may intervene in this plant response have been extensively studied: they include enzymes of the phenylpropanoid pathway involved in the synthesis of antimicrobial phytoalexins, enzymes with hydrolytic activities, toxic compounds and cell wall proteins. In infected plants, these genes are induced around the necrosis, once it has developed, i.e. late during the HR. Moreover, most of them are also strongly expressed during compatible interactions leading to the disease of the plant, and for some of them, during the normal development of the plant. The lack of specificity of these defense genes as well as their activation in the late steps of the HR suggest that they may not account by itself for establishment of the complex inducible response that is the HR, but rather may accompany this reaction. To date, the molecular mechanisms leading from plant-pathogen recognition to development of the HR are not known. In the "gene for gene" hypothesis, the initial step of plant-pathogen recognition leading to resistance involves the putative interaction between the products of a plant resistance gene and of the corresponding pathogen avirulent gene. Genetic studies indeed revealed that the outcome of many plant-pathogen interactions are determined through single dominant genes in both partners. Several rapid physiological changes have been also associated with the HR, such as electrolyte leakage, changes in respiration rates and more recently oxidative cross-linking of cell-wall proteins. However, in no case has a plant gene been described whose activation is specific or at least preferential during the resistance reaction, and precedes the development of the HR.

25      It is known that *Pseudomonas solanacearum*, a vascular bacterium, causes a lethal wilting of different plant species including *Solanaceae*. In this bacterium, a hypersensitive response (hrp) and pathogenicity gene cluster has been shown to control both the ability to elicit the HR on non-host plants and to cause the disease on host plants. In particular, hrp gene mutants of *P. solanacearum* have lost the ability to elicit an HR on tobacco plants. Recently, it was established that the hrpN gene of the hrp gene cluster of another bacterial pathogen, *Erwinia amylovora*, encodes a proteinaceous HR elicitor called harpin. This result confirms the important role of hrp genes in eliciting the HR. Upon infiltration of tobacco leaves by an HR-inducing incompatible isolate, six different gene families were characterized which are activated early during the interaction, before any necrosis of the leaf was detected. These genes which were not induced upon infiltration by an hrp-isolate differed by the accumulation levels of their transcripts during the incompatible versus the compatible interactions: the str (sensitivity-related) genes are expressed to a similar extent in both types of interactions, whereas the hsr genes are activated preferentially during the HR.

30      The present invention relates to an hsr gene family represented by a gene, hereinafter designated hsr203J, the sequence of which is depicted in SEQ ID No. 1. The putative protein product (SEQ ID No. 2) of the gene exhibits little, if any substantial homology with known proteins. Tests employing i.a. the promoter region of the hsr203J structural gene operably linked to a reporter gene in transient gene expression assays and in transgenic plants indicate that the expression of the hsr203J gene is closely related to the development of hypersensitivity: the promoter is specifically activated during the HR several hours before the appearance of the necrosis, and the localization of its activation is restricted to cells inoculated with an incompatible bacterial isolate.

35      According to the present invention there is provided a recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising the nucleotide sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent.

40      Hereinafter where the term "functional equivalent" is used in respect of the protein encoding region of the DNA sequence the term means the said region wherein one or more codons have been replaced by their synonyms, ie codons which specify a corresponding amino acid or a corresponding transcription termination signal.

45      Where the term "functional equivalent" is used in respect of transcriptional regulatory regions of the sequence the term means the said region wherein one or more nucleotides have been replaced by different nucleotides and/or the region wherein one or more nucleotides have been added or removed with the proviso that the thus produced equivalents retain transcriptional regulatory activity and exhibit substantial homology with the region, or part thereof, which is 5' to the above mentioned protein encoding region.

50      As used herein, the term "substantial homology" refers to a DNA sequence which hybridizes under conventional hybridization conditions with a reference sequence. Preferably the hybridization conditions refer to hybridization in which the TM value is between 35 and 45°C. Most preferably the term substantial homology

refers to a DNA sequence which hybridizes with the reference sequence under stringent conditions (as defined below).

The term "regulatory region" as used herein refers to the nucleotide region in the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 which is 5' to the protein encoding region in the sequence. The regulatory region thus includes the promoter of the hsr203J gene and the functional components of the promoter which affect transcription. Such functional components include a "deletion promoter" and transcriptional "silencers" and "enhancers".

A "deletion promoter" within the context of the present invention is any hsr203J derived promoter which has a deletion relative to the natural promoter and which still retains promoter activity. Such promoter activity may be enhanced or substantially the same when compared to the native promoter. The skilled man is aware of the manner in which deletion promoters can be assayed for retention of their promoter activity. Deletion promoters according to the present invention are inducible, *inter alia*, by plant pathogens, and find utility in constructs comprising structural genes providing for improved disease resistance.

Where the term "functional equivalent" is used in connection with a protein, the sequence of which is dictated by at least a part of the DNA sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1, the term means a protein having a like function and like or improved specific activity, and a similar amino acid sequence. The present invention includes pure proteins which have an amino acid sequence which is at least 60% similar to the sequence or part (see below) thereof of the protein depicted in SEQ ID No. 2. It is preferred that the degree of similarity is at least 60%, more preferred that the degree of similarity is at least 70% and still more preferred that the degree of similarity is at least 80%.

In the context of the present invention, two amino acid sequences with at least 60% similarity to each other are defined by having at least 70% identical or similar amino acids residues in the same position when aligned optimally allowing for up to 4 deletions or up to 10 additions. For the purpose of the present invention:

- Alanine, Serine and Threonine are similar;
- Glutamic acid and Aspartic acid are similar;
- Asparagine and Glutamine are similar;
- Arginine and Lysine are similar;
- Isoleucine, Leucine, Methionine and Valine are similar;
- Phenylalanine, Tyrosine and Tryptophan are similar.

Where the term "part" is used in connection with a protein sequence, the term means a peptide comprised by the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 2 and having at least 5 amino acids. More preferably the peptide has at least 20 amino acids, and still more preferably the peptide has at least 40 amino acids.

Where the term "part" is used in connection with a nucleotide sequence, the term means a nucleotide sequence comprised by the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 and having at least 15 nucleotides. More preferably the part has at least 25 nucleotides, and still more preferably the part has at least 40 nucleotides.

The invention also includes a recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 1413 to 2417 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent. Nucleotides 1413 to 2417 correspond to the protein-encoding region of the hsr203J gene which is useful in that the gene product has a functional role in regulating or providing for disease resistance in plants. Thus, the protein coding sequence, or a part thereof, of the hsr203J gene may be fused to an inducible promoter such as that regulating expression of WIN, WUN or PR-proteins so that upon infection by a compatible pathogen, expression of the hsr203J structural gene is induced. The ensuing activation of the hypersensitive response by the hsr203J protein in infected plant cells halts further spread of the pathogen.

The invention also includes a recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 1 to 1341 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent. Nucleotides 1 to 1341 correspond to the non-protein encoding region of the sequence which is 5' to the said protein encoding region. The region of the said DNA sequence comprising nucleotides 1 to 1341 includes the transcriptional regulatory region of the hsr203J gene, including the promoter (binding site for RNA polymerase) and transcriptional silencers and enhancers.

Silencer and enhancer elements are useful in that they enable modulation of the level of expression of the structural genes under their control.

The invention still further includes a recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 1 to 651 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent. The region comprising nucleotides 1 to 651 includes a transcriptional silencer.

The invention still further includes a recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 652 to 1341 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent. The region comprising nucleotides 652 to 1341

includes a transcriptional enhancer and the promoter (ie RNA polymerase binding site) of the hsr203J gene.

The invention further provides the use of hsr203J promoter sequences as affinity substrates for the identification and subsequent purification of hsr203j promoter binding proteins (hsr-PBP's) and proteins associated with these hsr-PBP's. Such hsr-PBP's have been partially characterized, are probably present constitutively and may bind to hsr203J promoter sequences upon incompatible reaction of the host plant such as occurs when *Nicotiana tabacum L.* is inoculated with specific strains of *Pseudomonas solanacearum*.

The invention still further includes a recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 1195 to 1341 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent. The region comprising nucleotides 1195 to 1341 includes a bacterial response element which is capable of binding to specific proteins which are produced by pathogens during their infection of tissue, and which are implicated in the development of the hypersensitive response (see above).

The invention still further includes a recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 1195 to 1268 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent. This region more precisely defines the bacterial response element.

The invention still further includes a recombinant DNA sequence as disclosed above wherein the said region, part or equivalent thereof is located on the 5' side of, and is operably linked to, a protein-encoding sequence of a heterologous gene or to a sequence comprising nucleotides 1413 to 2417 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof. It is particularly preferred that a translation enhancing sequence is present between the region or part or equivalent thereof, and the protein-encoding region of the DNA sequence 3' thereto.

The heterologous gene may be any suitable structural gene, including a selectable or screenable marker gene or a gene, the product of which is capable of conferring resistance or tolerance to at least one of the following: insects, herbicides, fungi, bacteria and viruses, a marker gene for use in disease pressure forecasting and anti-feedant genes.

The promoter, and/or regulatory regions of the hsr203J gene may be fused to a structural gene encoding a non-diffusible cytotoxic gene product such as an ribonuclease, protease, lipase or glucanase. Induction of expression of such structural genes provides a rapid and localized response to infection by pathogens, and may be useful in providing resistance or improving tolerance of the plant to the pathogen.

Moreover, the regulatory regions of hsr203J gene may be used in the creation of "detector" plants enabling the early detection of disease pressure. The hsr203J promoter and/or regulatory regions thereof, may be fused to a nucleotide sequence providing for a visual alteration to the host plant phenotype upon activation of the promoter by infection. Such sequences include the anti-sense orientation of the gene encoding the Small Sub-unit of Ribulose B-phospho Carboxylase (SS-RUBISCO) which causes localized bleaching of green tissues. Such sequences could also encode a gene encoding a key enzyme in pigment biosynthesis such as chalcon synthase.

The invention also includes recombinant DNA according to the invention, which is modified in that codons which are preferred by the organism into which the recombinant DNA is to be inserted are used so that expression of the thus modified DNA in the said organism yields substantially similar protein to that obtained by expression of the unmodified recombinant DNA in the organism in which the protein-encoding components of the recombinant DNA are endogenous.

The invention still further includes a DNA sequence which is complementary to one which, under stringent conditions, hybridizes to any one of the above disclosed recombinant DNA sequences.

"Stringent hybridization conditions" are those in which hybridization is effected at between 50 and 60°C in 2X saline citrate buffer containing 0.1%SDS followed by merely rinsing at the same temperature but in a buffer having a reduced SCC concentration which will not affect the hybridizations that have taken place. Such reduced concentration buffers are respectively (a) 1xSCC, 0.1%SDS; or (b) 0.5xSCC, 0.1%SDS; or (c) 0.1xSCC, 0.1%SDS.

The invention still further includes a DNA vector comprising a recombinant DNA sequence according to the invention or a DNA sequence which is complementary to one which, under stringent conditions, hybridizes thereto.

It is preferred that the vector according to the invention be used to transform a eukaryotic host, preferably of plant origin. It will be appreciated that suitable micro-organisms may be transformed with such a vector, and such micro-organisms represent yet a further embodiment of the invention.

The term "plant" is used herein in a wide sense and refers to differentiated plants as well as undifferentiated plant material such as protoplasts, plants cells, seeds, plantlets etc. that under appropriate conditions can develop into mature plants, the progeny thereof and parts thereof such as cuttings and fruits of such

plants.

Preferred vectors will of course vary depending on the chosen host. For dicotyledons, the vector may be introduced into a protoplast by contacting the vector with the protoplast in a suitable medium and under appropriate conditions which render the protoplast competent for the uptake of DNA; the vector may also be employed in the form of an *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* Ti-plasmid derivative which infects plant cells or protoplasts. Monocotyledons are preferably transformed by micro-injection, electroporation or by use of the micro-projectile gun, using the so-called ballistic technique. In any case, appropriate transformation vectors and protocols are well known in the art. The transformed cells or protoplasts are cultured in an appropriate culture medium, and a transformed plant is regenerated in a manner known *per se*. The introduced nuclear material is stably incorporated into the genome of the regenerated transformed plants which accordingly express the desired genes.

Examples of genetically modified plants according to the present invention include: fruits, including tomatoes, peppers, mangoes, peaches, apples, pears, strawberries, bananas, and melons; field crops such as canola, sunflower, tobacco, sugar beet, small grain cereals such as wheat, barley and rice, corn and cotton, and vegetables such as potato, carrot, lettuce, *Brassica oleracea* such as cabbage and onion. The particularly preferred plants are sugar beet and corn.

The invention still further includes the progeny or seeds of such plants, and the seeds and progeny of said progeny.

The invention still further includes protein obtained by expression of the recombinant DNA according to the invention, and in particular, expressed protein having the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 2, or a part thereof or a functional equivalent of said sequence or part.

The Invention will be further apparent from the following description, and the associated Figures and Sequence Listings.

**25     Of the Figures:**

FIG. 1 shows a chimeric construct used for transient gene expression assays in tobacco protoplasts and for transformation of tobacco plants via *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. Fig (A) shows the restriction map of the chimeric β-glucuronidase gene on pHG21 (or pHG21A). This gene consists of a translational fusion between 30 1.4 kb of the 5' flanking sequence from the hsr203J gene and the coding region of uidA gene linked to the nos-paline synthase gene polyadenylation signal (nos T). Fig (B) shows the sequence (SEQ ID No. 2) of the pHG21 translational fusion joint. The hsr203J gene sequence is in bold type and the uidA sequence is in standard type. The orientation is 5' to 3', and the arrow in the Figure indicates the position of the fusion between the sequences.

FIG. 2 shows the effect of infection with different isolates (hrp, K 60 and GMI 1000) of *Pseudomonas solanacearum* on hsr203J promoter activity in transformed tobacco protoplasts. As a control, water was added to the protoplasts. Plasmids pBI201 and pBI221 are respectively negative and positive control plasmids; pHG21 is the hsr203J-uidA gene fusion. GUS activity assays were performed 24 h after incubation. The data shown represent the mean of three separate experiments.

FIG. 3 shows the time course of hsr203J promoter activation of the GUS gene in transgenic tobacco leaves infiltrated with different isolates (hrp, K 60 and GMI 1000) of *P. solanacearum*. GUS activity was measured in extracts of four leaves from two pHG21-14A transformants.

FIG. 4 shows a quantitative analysis of GUS activity in locally bacterial-infected transgenic tobacco plants. Figure (A) shows the induction of β-glucuronidase activity in the inoculated third leaf, and in the upper and lower un-inoculated leaves. Figure (B) shows the induction of β-glucuronidase activity in and around the lesion of the inoculated third leaf. The following tissue samples were assayed: lesion meaning necrotic tissue resulting from the wounding and/or bacterial infection; 0-3mm meaning apparently healthy tissue up to 3mm from the lesion; 3-6mm meaning apparently healthy tissue 3 to 6mm surrounding the lesion. Inoculation was performed on pHG21-14A transformants. Small leaf perforations were covered by a droplet of the bacterial suspension (3 µL containing 10<sup>8</sup> c.f.u./mL) or water, as indicated on the Figure. Tissue samples were collected 18 h after inoculation.

FIG. 5 shows the effect of hrp mutants on the activation of hsr203J promoter in transgenic pHG21(14A) tobacco plants. Figure (A) shows localization of hrp mutations in the different transcription units of the hrp gene cluster. Figure (B) shows measurements of GUS activity in leaves at 18 h after inoculation by the hrp K60 or GMI 1000 isolates or by water, or by the hrp mutants indicated in Figure (A). Inoculation was performed as described for Figure 4.

FIG. 6 shows schematically the construction of plasmids pHGD having several deletions of pHG21.

FIG. 7 shows in transgenic tobacco plants the expression of the GUS gene by constructs obtained by

5' promoter deletions of pHG21 (according to the scheme of Figure 5). The plants were transformed with 5 µg DNA, and the value 100 was given to the GUS activity obtained by transformation with the pHG21 construct. The Figure shows the increase in activity (after 18 hours) of the GUS gene as a consequence of infiltration of the transformed plants with the bacterial strains Delta 3, K60 and GMI 1000. As controls plants were infiltrated with water.

5 Of the Sequences:

SEQ ID No. 1 shows the nucleotide sequence of the hsr203J gene, including the protein encoding region and promoter and transcriptional regulatory elements therefor, isolated from tobacco. The protein coding region of the gene is comprised by nucleotides 1413 to 2417 in the sequence. Putative polyadenylation signals are present 3' to the protein coding region of the gene and the sequence responsible for the HR is within about 1.4 kb of the 5' non-coding region of the gene. In essence the sequence comprises:

- 10 a) a 72 bp mRNA leader sequence, located at nucleotides 1341 to 1412 inclusive;
- 15 b) CAAT and TATA consensus sequences located at nucleotide positions 1282-1286 and 1313-1316 respectively;
- c) the translation start site codon at nucleotide positions 1413-1415;
- d) the "deletion promoter" sequence located at nucleotides 1-1341 inclusive which is substantially responsible for the promoter activity;
- 20 e) the sequence located at nucleotide positions 1195-1268 having an enhancing effect on the promoter activity;
- f) the sequence located at nucleotide positions 1-651 having a silencing effect on the promoter activity.

SEQ ID No. 2 shows the translation product of the hsr203J structural gene, encoded by nucleotides 1413-2417 in SEQ ID No. 1;

25 SEQ ID No. 3 shows a linker region for a chimeric gene comprising the 5' flanking region of the hsr203J structural gene and the coding region of the uidA reporter gene. The start codon for the hsr203J structural gene is at nucleotides 10-12 in the sequence and nucleotides 13-64 encode the N-terminal sequence of the hsr203J gene product.

30 Bacterial Strains and Plant Material

The source of the *Pseudomonas solanacearum* strains used herein is depicted in Table 1.

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**TABLE 1**

Pseudomonas solanacearum wild type and mutant strains used in this study, and their ability to induce symptoms on tobacco				
	Strains	Source or reference	Isolated from	Tobacco response
10	<i>Wild type</i>			
	GMI 1000	Boucher <i>et al.</i> (1)	Tomato	HR
	K60	Lozano <i>et al.</i> (17)	Tomato	Disease
15	<i>Mutants derived from GMI 1000 (deletion of hrp gene cluster)</i>			
	Δhrp	Boucher <i>et al.</i> , unpublished		No symptoms
20	<i>Mutants in hrp gene cluster derived from GMI 1000 (Tn5-B20 mutagenesis)</i>			
	GMI 1462, 1475, 1494, 1492, 1487	Arlat <i>et al.</i> (18)		No symptoms
	GMI 1423, 1425	Arlat <i>et al.</i> (18)		Partial and/or delayed HR
25	<i>Mutant derived from GMI 1000 (Tn5-B20 mutagenesis outside the hrp gene cluster)</i>			
	GMI 1485	Arlat <i>et al.</i> (18)		HR

30           The GMI1000 and K60 isolates are wild-type *P. solanacearum* strains, the former induces the development of an HR on tobacco leaves within 24 h after infiltration, and the latter causes the typical lethal wilting disease. A derivative of the GMI1000 isolate, called Δ, deleted for the *hrp* gene cluster, causes no apparent symptoms in inoculated leaves. Eight mutant strains derived from GMI1000 by transposon Tn5-B20 mutagenesis were used as described below. The GMI1462, 1475, 1494, 1485, 1423 and 1425 strains are each mutated in one of the six putative transcription units of the *hrp* gene cluster. All these strains have lost the ability to cause an HR on tobacco, except strains GMI1423 and 1425 which are mutated in the right-hand end of the *hrp* gene cluster, and induce only a partial and/or a delayed HR on tobacco; and the strain GMI1485 which is mutated 35           outside of the *hrp* gene cluster and elicits a normal HR on tobacco and constitutively expresses the structural gene of β-galactosidase. All these are grown at 28°C in B or BGT media (1). The cultivars of *Nicotiana tabacum* L. used herein: Bottom Special and Samsun, exhibit similar responses after bacterial inoculation. The seedlings are grown *in vitro* on Murashige and Skoog (MS) medium (2) during 4 to 5 weeks (25° C, 16 h photoperiod, 15 Watt/m<sup>2</sup>), and then transferred to soil in a growth chamber (25° C, 16 h photoperiod, 30 Watt/m<sup>2</sup>). 40

45           Isolation of hsr203J gene, and nucleotide sequence analysis

50           A tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum* L. cultivar NK326) genomic library constructed in the bacteriophage λ-Embl3 (Clontech) is screened with the pNt203 cDNA clone (3). The PstI insert of pNt203 is labeled by the random primer technique (4). Replicate nitro-cellulose filters of the genomic library are treated and hybridized as suggested by the manufacturers (Amersham). Four different genomic clones including hsr203J are isolated. Exonuclease III deletions are performed at both ends of DNA inserts subcloned in the phagemid pKS (Stratagene) according to Henikoff (5), and both strands are sequenced by the dideoxy chain termination method 55           (6) using Sequenase (US Biochemical, Corp.). Sequence compilation and analysis are performed by using the Genetics Computer Group software of the University of Wisconsin (7). Homology searches with the Genebank (release 71.0) and Swissprot (release 21.0) data bases are performed using the FASTA algorithm (8). The protein sequences are analysed for potential N-terminal signal sequences and membrane-spanning domains using release 5.0 of the PC/Gene Programme (Department of Medical Biochemistry, University of Geneva, Swit-

erland). The transcription start site is determined by the primer extension technique using polyA+ RNA extracted from tobacco leaves 9 hours after inoculation with the incompatible isolate and an oligonucleotide located at the ATG codon (nucleotides 1413 to 1415 in SEQ ID No. 1).

**5 Reporter gene constructs**

A 2.2 kilobase (kb) BgIII fragment containing 1.3 kb of the 5' non-coding region of the tobacco hsr203J gene and 890 base pairs (bp) of the nucleotide sequence downstream of the transcription start site is cloned into the BamHI site of phagemid pKS, to produce pKJ2.2. This plasmid is digested with BstBI, which cuts once 10 55 bp 3' of the hsr203J translation initiation codon, and the BstBI generated ends were blunt end ligated by the Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase before digestion with Sall. This 1.5 kb Sall - BstBI fragment is cloned into the Sall - Smal site of the β-glucuronidase (GUS) expression binary vector pBI101.2 (9) to produce the hsr203J uidA gene fusion pHG21A. A 3.5 kb HindIII - EcoRI DNA fragment of pHG21A, including the hsr203J promoter and the uidA coding sequence, is ligated into the HindIII - EcoRI digested pUC19 vector to produce pHG21, for transient expression gene assays (Fig. 1). The pHG21 and pHG21A constructs therefore contain 15 1341 bp 5' non coding sequence, the 72 bp leader sequence, the first 55 bp of the coding sequence of hsr203J fused in frame with the GUS coding sequence, and the nopaline synthase (nos) gene polyadenylation signal. The translational fusion is confirmed by direct double-stranded sequencing with a GUS specific primer (10). Two additional plasmids, pBI201 and pBI221, contain respectively a promoterless uidA gene, and a cauliflower 20 mosaic virus (CaMV) 35S promoter - uidA gene, upstream of the nos terminator, in the pUC19 vector (Clontech).

**Protoplast isolation and transient expression assays**

25 Leaves of 4 to 5-week-old in vitro grown tobacco plants, cultivar Samsun NN, are used for isolation of protoplasts by incubating leaf sections in TO medium (11) containing 1 g/L cellulase R10 Onozuka, 200 mg/L macrozyme Onozuka (Yakult Honsha, Nishinomiya, Japan) and 500 mg/L pectolyase Y23 (Seishin Pharmaceutical Ind.), for 15 h at 22° C in darkness. Protoplasts are separated from the cellular debris by sieving through 30 an 85 µm nylon mesh followed by centrifugation at 50 g for 5 min onto a 1 mL cushion of 19 % (w/v) sucrose. Floated protoplasts are washed once with TO medium, counted, and adjusted to the density of 1.5 x 10<sup>6</sup> protoplasts/mL. Transformation is performed by incubating the protoplasts (320 µL samples) at 45° C for 5 min, 35 after a brief cooling at room temperature, by adding plasmid DNA (50 µg per assay in 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8) and 160 µL of a PEG solution (40 % PEG, 0.4 M mannitol, 30 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.1 % Mes pH 5.8). Protoplasts are gently mixed for 10 min at room temperature. They are then collected by centrifugation and resuspended in 500 µL TO medium. The bacterial suspension (10 bacteria/protoplast) prepared as previously described (12) is then added. After incubation at 28° C for 24 h, the protoplasts are lysed by the addition of 50 µL of 10X GUS buffer, centrifuged and the supernatant is assayed for GUS activity (10).

**Transgenic tobacco plants**

40 pHG2A, pBI121, and pBI101 are mobilised from *Escherichia coli* DH5α into *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain LBA 4404 (13) and transgenic tobacco plants (*N. tabacum*, Bottom Special) are generated by the leaf disk method (14). Transformed plants are selected on MS medium containing 0.8 % Difco agar, kanamycin at 100 µg/mL and carbenicillin at 500 µg/mL. Transgenic plants are self-fertilized and seeds are collected. Their 45 genotypes are determined by progeny (T2) analysis, by germination on MS medium containing kanamycin (500 µg/mL).

**Inoculation of transgenic plants with bacterial isolates**

50 All the inoculation experiments are performed on kanamycin-resistant T2 plants, with at least 2 plants of the same genotype per experimental condition. For the screening of transformants and kinetic experiments, tobacco leaves are detached from 8 week-old plants and infiltrated in vacuo with the bacterial suspension (10<sup>7</sup> c.f.u./mL) or water as described in ref (12). Syringe infiltration experiments are performed on 8 week-old plants by infiltrating the bacterial suspension (10<sup>8</sup> c.f.u./mL) into a small region of undetached leaves with a syringe 55 without a needle. For some experiments, inoculations were performed on 5 week-old plants grown in Magenta cubes (Sigma) on MS medium. Each half of a leaf is perforated 6 times with an 10 µL-Hamilton needle and a 3 µL droplet of bacterial suspension (10<sup>8</sup> c.f.u./mL in 0.4 % Difco agar) is immediately deposited at the wounded sites.

For localized root inoculation, 4 week-old plants are grown on a raft (Sigma) in contact with MS medium containing 0.2 % Difco agar, and inoculated with a 3  $\mu$ L droplet of bacterial suspension through a wound made with a needle at one centimeter from the root apex or at a secondary root emergence. For generalized root inoculation, the whole plant is detached carefully from the raft, avoiding wounding, and the root system is immersed in 7 mL of the bacterial suspension ( $10^8$  c.f.u./mL).

5 Inoculated plants are maintained at 28° C, and analysed either directly or stored at -80° C after incubation time.

#### GUS assays

10 Plant tissue is ground in liquid nitrogen, homogenized in 1X GUS buffer, centrifuged for 5 min at 10,000g and the supernatant assayed for GUS activity, as previously described (15). Protein concentration is determined using the Bradford dye reagent. GUS activity is expressed as picomoles of 4-methylumbelliferaone per min per mg of protein. Alternatively, histochemical assays are performed on fresh tissue using X-gluc (5-bromo-15 4-chloro-3-indolyl- $\beta$ -D-glucuronide, Clontech) or Magenta-gluc (Biosynth AG) as the substrate (10). For some experiments, samples are fixed in 0.3 % formaldehyde/ 50 mM NaPO<sub>4</sub> buffer pH7, then cleared by boiling in ethanol and stored in ethanol 70 %.

#### $\beta$ -galactosidase assays

20 Following the GUS histochemical assay, some samples are equilibrated in Z' buffer (16) (100 mM NaPO<sub>4</sub> buffer pH 7.4, 10 mM KCl, 1mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>), fixed in 1.25 % glutaraldehyde for 1 h in order to inactivate endogenous plant  $\beta$ -galactosidases, rinsed and stained at 28° C with 0.8 mg/mL Magenta-Gal (Biosynth Ag) or X-gal in Z' buffer containing 5 mM K<sub>3</sub>Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub> and 5 mM K<sub>4</sub>Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>, then cleared by boiling in ethanol and observed by dark- or bright-field microscopy.

#### Characterization of hsr203J gene

30 The hsr203J gene is isolated by screening a genomic tobacco library with pNt203 cDNA clone. It belongs to a small multi-gene family consisting of a minimum of 4 genes (see ref. 3) and at least 2 genes of this family corresponding to 2 different cDNA clones (pNt203 and pNt239) are expressed during the HR.

Sequence analysis of the 2.7 kb DNA region of hsr203J (SEQ ID No. 1) reveals a single open reading frame (ORF) with no intron and a potential coding capacity of 355 amino acids. The nucleotide sequence of the said 2.7 kb region is identical to the pNt239 cDNA clone except for 2 substituted bp (not shown). These mismatches are probably due to the isolation of the genomic and cDNA clones from different tobacco cultivars: the genomic clone is isolated from cultivar NK326 whereas the pNt239 cDNA clone is obtained from the cultivar Bottom Special. The predicted hsr203J structural protein (SEQ ID No 2) has a Mr. of 37.5 kDa and a theoretical isoelectric point of 5.17.

40 The transcription start site is mapped by primer extension to a position 72 bp upstream of the putative translation initiation codon. The promoter and 5'-untranslated region exhibited no obvious sequence homology to cis-elements already described in defense genes.

#### Transient expression of the hsr203J-uidA gene fusion in tobacco protoplasts

45 pHG21 plasmid is composed of a translation fusion between 1.4 kb of the 5' flanking sequence from the hsr203J gene and the coding region of the uidA reporter gene, linked to the 3' untranslated region of the nopaline synthase gene (Fig. 2). The plasmids pBI201 and pBI221 are used respectively as negative and positive controls in transient assays.

50 Initial experiments show that protoplast viability as quantified by Evans blue exclusion is not significantly altered in the presence of bacteria at 10 to 100 bacteria per protoplast (data not shown). Subsequently experiments are performed with 10 bacteria per protoplast. At this bacterial density, the expression of GUS fused to the hsr203J promoter in response to GMI1000 isolate is 6-fold higher than in response to the controls (water or  $\Delta$ hrp inoculation) (Fig. 3). In comparison, inoculation with the compatible isolate, K60, led to a 2-fold increase in enzyme activity. These levels of GUS activity have to be compared with those measured in protoplasts transformed with the CaMV 35S-uidA gene fusion (pBI221) which exhibit a high and almost constitutive level after the various inoculation treatments (Fig. 3).

55 The results of transient assays therefore indicate clearly that the hsr203J promoter contains all the necessary elements for its preferential activation by the HR-inducing bacterial isolate, and that this expression

system perfectly mimics the plant/pathogen interaction.

#### Expression of hsr203J-uidA gene fusion in transgenic tobacco

5 In order to determine the spatial and temporal patterns of expression of the hsr203J promoter in planta, the hsr203J-uidA gene fusion is transferred to tobacco by leaf disk transformation. T2 plants resistant to kanamycin are used in all the experiments. Of 23 kanamycin resistant transformants, 20 expressed the gene fusion and these all exhibit the same overall pattern of expression: GUS activity is found maximal after infiltration with GMI1000, with a 2- to 90-fold stimulation over control infiltrations (water or  $\Delta hrp$ ), and a 2- to 25-fold induction over K60 infiltration, 18 hours after inoculation (not shown). These levels are comparable to those obtained in transient experiments after inoculation by GMI 1000 or K60.

10 Based on this analysis, a transformant (pHG21-14A) which displays a 90-fold stimulation of GUS activity after incompatible inoculation compared to control infiltrations, and contains one insertion of the gene fusion per haploid genome, is selected. The presence of a native gene fusion is checked by Southern analysis of genomic DNA (not shown).

15 Assay of extractable GUS activity and GUS histochemical localization are both used to monitor the activity of the hsr203J promoter in different organs during plant development and in response to bacterial inoculation. No GUS activity was detected in 4, 7 or 15 day-old pHG21-14A tobacco seedlings, either in healthy leaves, or in flowers of fully grown plants (data not shown). These data indicate that the hsr203J promoter is strongly activated in leaves inoculated with the HR-inducing isolate, GMI1000, 18 h after infiltration, as indicated by the screening of all the transformants obtained. A kinetic study is performed on transformant pHG21-14A (Fig. 3), which shows that in leaves infiltrated with GMI1000, GUS activity increases to a level 12-fold over control values 6 h after inoculation, reaches a maximum of 200-fold stimulation at 9 h, and decreases to an intermediate level (80-fold induction) upon longer incubations. Much lower levels are measured after K60 infiltration, and undetectable levels of GUS activity were found in leaves infiltrated with water or the  $\Delta hrp$  isolate at any incubation time.

20 Plants transformed with the promoterless construct pH1101 show negligible levels of GUS activity. Moreover, plants transformed with pBI121, which contain a CaMV 35S-uidA gene fusion, show similar levels of enzyme activity, whatever the nature of the inoculum (not shown). Thus the hsr203J-uidA gene fusion exhibits a distinct and specific pattern of activation upon bacterial inoculation of transgenic tobacco plants that closely matches the *in vivo* pattern of accumulation of hsr203J transcripts in infiltrated tobacco leaves (3). These results also indicate that hsr203J promoter is early and specifically activated during an incompatible plant/pathogen interaction, and that its induction is *hrp* gene-dependent since the bacterial isolate which is deleted of *hrp* genes is unable to activate the hsr203J promoter.

25 Localization of hsr203J-uidA activation in response to bacterial inoculation

Different inoculation tests are performed on transformants pHG21-14A in order to localize precisely hsr203J promoter activation in response to bacterial inoculation; first, in tobacco leaves in order to investigate 30 promoter induction during a typical HR, and secondly, in roots, which are the organs naturally infected by the bacteria.

#### Leaf inoculations:

35 In order to test whether the hsr203J-GUS gene expression is local or systemic, leaves of 5 week-old transgenic plants are inoculated with bacterial suspension droplets. After incubation for 18 and 70 hours, GUS activity is determined in half of the inoculated leaf as well as in upper and lower leaves. The results show a 15-fold induction of this activity in the inoculated leaf, whereas very low levels are detected in the lower and upper leaves (Figure 4A). The other half of the inoculated leaf is used for histochemical GUS assay. A narrow blue-stained region is visualized 18 h and 70 h after inoculation with the HR-inducing bacterial isolate, surrounding 40 the wounded area, which is restricted to a few cell layers and is localized very close to yellowing, probably dead, cells. The intensity of the staining increases 70 h after inoculation. Only a few dispersed cells exhibit a faint blue staining after K60 inoculation; water or  $\Delta hrp$  isolate inoculations induce no detectable GUS expression. Staining of transgenic plants harboring a chimeric uidA gene under the control of the CaMV 35S promoter 45 results in the staining of the entire leaf, with no preferential staining around the lesions, thus demonstrating the specific nature of the induction of the hsr203J promoter in this area. A more detailed localization of this activation during infection is provided by GUS activity measurements in small squares surrounding the lesion, 18 h after inoculation (Fig. 4B). High levels of enzyme activity (48-fold stimulation over control values) are found

only within the necrotic lesion itself after inoculation by GMI1000. No detectable enzyme activity is found in tissue up to 3mm away from the lesion.

In order to determine how early the hsr203J promoter is activated in the inoculated area, histochemical GUS localizations are performed on leaves of 8 week-old transgenic plants locally infiltrated by a syringe with the bacterial suspensions or K60. As early as 6 h after inoculation by the GMI1000 isolate at which time there is no visible tissue necrosis, the leaf infiltrated area shows a blue staining whose intensity increases 9 h after inoculation. At later incubation time points, a yellow necrosis progressively appears, limited on its border by a thin blue area still located within the infiltrated part of the leaf.

These different experiments show clearly that hsr203J-GUS expression is confined to a restricted area corresponding precisely to cell layers infected by the HR-inducing isolate, GMI1000.

#### Root inoculations:

Roots of transgenic plants grown on rafts are wounded and inoculated with a droplet of bacterial suspension. After 48 h incubation, histochemical localization of GUS activity is performed. Staining only observed in roots infected by GMI1000 extends from the initially inoculated site to a 2 mm distance in the root. Cytological studies indicate that hsr203J promoter activation appears not to be cell-type dependent (not shown). A generalized root inoculation is also performed by simply immersing the whole root system in a bacterial suspension. In this case, GUS activity is found in restricted regions of the roots, i.e. at the point of origin of secondary roots. Expression of the gene fusion at this specific location has to be correlated with the existence of preferential sites of bacterial entry into the host which have been observed along the emergence sheath of secondary roots. At these specific sites, a double staining of GUS activity and bacteria by using a bacterial isolate containing a  $\beta$ -galactosidase fusion, shows a good correlation between the activation of the hsr203J promoter and the presence of bacteria. A superficial and intercellular bacterial colonization of the root tips has also been observed and results in a strong activation of the hsr203J promoter in this part of the root.

Thus, the hsr203J-GUS gene fusion exhibits a distinct and specific pattern of activation in transgenic tobacco plants in response to bacterial infection and one which closely matches the pattern of bacterial ingress into the plant.

#### Dependence of hsr203J-uidA activation on hrp genes

Different *P. solanacearum* strains mutated in one of the six transcription units of the hrp gene cluster (Fig. 5A) are used to inoculate transgenic plants (pHG21-14A) by the droplet method. These mutant strains have lost the ability to induce an HR on tobacco, although two of them, GMI1425 and GMI1423, lead to a partial or delayed HR. 18 h after incubation, no effect on GUS activity can be detected with 6 out of 7 tested mutants; only GMI1423 leads to an increase in enzyme activity comparable to that of the wild type strain, GMI1000 (Fig. 5B). These data indicate that hsr203J activation requires almost a whole functional hrp gene cluster.

Until now, no plant gene has been identified which is specifically implicated in the perception of an incompatible pathogen, the transfer of that signal throughout the cell or finally the programmed cell death (HR) which provides an efficient mechanism for the limitation and eventual elimination of the pathogen.

The gene hsr203J (SEQ ID No. 1) is the first hypersensitivity-related gene to be isolated, whose promoter exhibits a rapid, high-level localized and specific activation in response to an HR-inducing bacterial isolate.

#### Construction of deletions of the 5' promoter region of pHG21

Unidirectional deletions of the promoter of the chimeric gene have been realized starting from the 5' end according to Henikoff (5). For that purpose, plasmid pHG21 (Fig. 1) is linearised employing the restriction enzymes ShpI and Sall, and then digested by exonuclease III. Constructions having successive deletions, each distant by ca. 200 pb, are selected. The localization of the 5' end of the deletion is determined by sequencing the region and comparison with the nucleotide sequence of the hsr203J gene (see Figure 6).

#### Effect of deletions on gene expression of the chimeric gene in transgenic tobacco plants

50  $\mu$ g plasmid DNA corresponding to the different deletions (Fig. 6) are introduced by transformation into tobacco plants. The GUS activity is measured 18 hours after inoculation.

FIG. 7 shows the expression of the GUS gene by constructs obtained by 5' promoter deletions of pHG21 (according to the scheme of Figure 5). The plants were transformed with 5  $\mu$ g DNA, and the value 100 was given to the GUS activity obtained by transformation with the pHG21 construct. The Figure shows the increase

in activity (after 18 hours) of the GUS gene as a consequence of infiltration of the transformed plants with the bacterial strains Delta 3, K60 and GMI 1000. As controls plants were infiltrated with water. These experiments indicate the presence of 2 main regions having a regulatory effect of the deletion promoter of the hsr203J gene.

5 One or more elements situated in the 1-651 nucleotide region of SEQ ID No. 1 are responsible for a diminution of the expression of the chimeric gene, and elements situated in the second region (nucleotides 652-1268) exhibit a positive effect on the activation of the promoter of the hsr203J gene.

The study of the spatial and temporal patterns of promoter activation in roots and leaves of transgenic plants inoculated with *Pseudomonas solanacearum*, indicate that

- 10 - the promoter is specifically activated during the HR several hours before the appearance of the necrotic lesion
- the localization of its activation is restricted to the few cell layers in contact with the bacteria
- the promoter does not respond to various stress conditions and is very weakly activated during compatible interactions
- the promoter activation is strongly dependent on hrp (hypersensitive response and pathogenicity) genes of *Pseudomonas solanacearum*. These genes control the ability of the bacterium to elicit the HR in resistant or non-host plant and to cause the disease on the host plant.

15 In favour of a major role of the bacterial hrp genes in the activation of hsr 203J gene promoter, is the fact that the hsr 203 promoter is expressed in response to an HR specific elicitor, harpin, product of one of the hrp genes of *Erwinia amylovora*. In response to this polypeptide, the promoter is activated at similar levels to those observed with the corresponding avirulent strain, but more rapidly. Other potential inducers such as biotic and abiotic elicitors, resistance inducers, do not affect its expression. The generality of the specific expression of hsr 203J during incompatible interactions with bacterial pathogens has been demonstrated by testing other pathogens such as *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *pisi* / *pseudomonas syringae* pv *tabaci*, and *Erwinia amylovora*.

20 25 In addition the functional analysis of the cis elements responsible for the transcriptional activation of the hsr 203J gene in response to the incompatible bacterial strain, has been initiated by generating a series of 5' deletions and analysis of these constructs by transient assay and in transgenic plants. The results reveal the presence of a distal silencer element, and of two positive regulatory elements, one being quantitative (nucleotides 655-770 in SEQ ID No. 1), the other one being specific for the response to the bacterium, between nucleotides 1195 and 1268 of the SEQ depicted in SEQ ID No. 1.

30 35 These results indicate that the hsr 203J gene promoter exhibits new and original characteristics of activation with regard to plant defense genes studied so far; its spatial and temporal program of activation together with its specific induction during the HR underline the importance of this gene as a molecular tool to study the establishment and regulation of the HR. In addition, a 74 bp sequence element has been defined as responsible for the inducibility of the promoter by the avirulent pathogen.

40 45 Although the invention has been specifically described with reference to activation of the hsr203J promoter in response to challenge of Tobacco plants with an incompatible pathogen, it will be appreciated that the promoter may likewise be activated by challenge of other plants transgenic for the gene with other pathogens, including certain viruses and certain fungi, indicating that specific expression of the hsr203J promoter is a general phenomenon of incompatible interactions between host and pathogen which lead to the hypersensitive response.

Moreover, the nucleotide sequence comprised by positions 1195 to 1268 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 containing the bacterial response element binds to nuclear protein extracts from various sources (healthy plants, plants inoculated with *Pseudomonas solanacearum* strains: compatible, incompatible and the hrp-mutant, after different incubation times). Such binding may be estimated by retardation gel analysis using, for example, the 74 bp region and several sub-fragments thus enabling identification of discrete sequences within the BRE region which are useful in providing genetic constructs comprising inducible disease resistance genes.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

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(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: Hypersensitivity related gene

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 3

(iv) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

- (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
- (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
- (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
- (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.25 (EPO)

25

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 1:

30

## (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 2778 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

35

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: genomic DNA

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

40

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

- (A) ORGANISM: Tobacco

45

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: CDS
- (B) LOCATION: 1413..2417

50

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 1:

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60

55

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120

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	CCCTGCCACT GTATGTTTC ATTGGATTAA CCTTTAACCA CACAAATATT TTAAAGAGTA	960
25	ATGTTTGACA GCGTAATTG AAACATCTAC TATGCCTCTG TATATAATAT CTAATGTTG	1020
	TTCGTAGACC AATATTCTAA TTCCCTCTTT GTAGACTAAA CGGGGCTGTA ACTAACTAAC	1080
	CACCATAGTT ATCTAAATTG TGACCCCTAG CGACCATTGA TAATTGATA CTGATCATTG	1140
	ACTTCCACCA AATCTACTTT CTAATGTGG ACTGACTCAT TATGAATTG TGAGGAAAAT	1200
30	ACTTCCCTAA TGCTAGTGCT CTTCCCTTA TCTAAACTCC AAAATTGTTGT AAAATTCTTT	1260
	GAACCTTCCT TTAAACTACC ACAAAATTTTC TTATCCTTTC CTATCTCACC ATTATAAAATA	1320
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35	TAATCGAAAA AAACACTTCA AACTTGCCA AA ATG GTT CAT GAA AAG CAA GTG Met Val His Glu Lys Gln Val 1 5	1433
	ATA GAG GAA GTA TCC GGC TGG CTT AGA GTT TTC GAA GAC GGT TCA GTA Ile Glu Glu Val Ser Gly Trp Leu Arg Val Phe Glu Asp Gly Ser Val 10 15 20	1481
40	GAC CGG ACT TGG ACC GGT CCA CCC GAA GTC AAA TTC ATG GCC GAG CCA Asp Arg Thr Trp Thr Gly Pro Pro Glu Val Lys Phe Met Ala Glu Pro 25 30 35	1529
	GTC CCA CCC CAT GAC TAC TTC ATC GAC GGC GTT GCC GTC AAA GAT GTA Val Pro Pro His Asp Tyr Phe Ile Asp Gly Val Ala Val Lys Asp Val 40 45 50 55	1577
	GTC GCC GAC GAA AAA TCC GGC AGC CGT CTC CGC ATC TAC TTA CCT GAA Val Ala Asp Glu Lys Ser Gly Ser Arg Leu Arg Ile Tyr Leu Pro Glu 60 65 70	1625
50	CGA AAC GAC AAT TCC GCC AGC AAG CTT CCC GTC ATT CTT CAC TTC CAA Arg Asn Asp Asn Ser Ala Ser Lys Leu Pro Val Ile Leu His Phe Gln 75 80 85	1673
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	GTC TAC ACG CGC CTA GCG CGC GCG GCC AAA GCT ATC ATT GTC TCC GTC Val Tyr Thr Arg Leu Ala Arg Ala Ala Lys Ala Ile Ile Val Ser Val 105 110 115	1769
5	TTC CTC CCC CTC GCG CCG GAG CAC CGC CTC CCA GCT GCC TGC GAT GCC Phe Leu Pro Leu Ala Pro Glu His Arg Leu Pro Ala Ala Cys Asp Ala 120 125 130 135	1817
10	GGT TTC GCC GCT CTC CTC TGG CTC CGG GAC CTC TCC CGG CAG CAA GGA Gly Phe Ala Ala Leu Leu Trp Leu Arg Asp Leu Ser Arg Gln Gln Gly 140 145 150	1865
15	CAC GAG CCC TGG CTC AAC GAT TAC GCA GAT TTC AAC CGA GTA TTC CTC His Glu Pro Trp Leu Asn Asp Tyr Ala Asp Phe Asn Arg Val Phe Leu 155 160 165	1913
20	ATC GGA GAC AGC TCC GGC GGG AAC ATA GTC CAC CAA GTT GCC GTC AAA Ile Gly Asp Ser Ser Gly Gly Asn Ile Val His Gln Val Ala Val Lys 170 175 180	1961
25	GCC GGC GAG GAA AAC TTA TCT CCA ATG CGA CTG GCC GGC GCA ATT CCG Ala Gly Glu Glu Asn Leu Ser Pro Met Arg Leu Ala Gly Ala Ile Pro 185 190 195	2009
30	ATC CAT CCA GGT TTC GTG CGG TCC TAT CGG AGC AAA TCG GAG CTA GAA Ile His Pro Gly Phe Val Arg Ser Tyr Arg Ser Lys Ser Glu Leu Glu 200 205 210 215	2057
35	CAA GAG CAA ACC CCG TTT TTA ACA TTA GAT ATG GTG GAT AAA TTT CTA Gln Glu Gln Thr Pro Phe Leu Thr Leu Asp Met Val Asp Lys Phe Leu 220 225 230	2105
40	GGG TTA GCT TTA CCA GTA GGG AGC AAC AAG GAT CAT CAA ATA ACA TGT Gly Leu Ala Leu Pro Val Gly Ser Asn Lys Asp His Gln Ile Thr Cys 235 240 245	2153
45	CCG ATG GGA GAG GCG GCG CCG GCA GTG GAG GAG CTT AAA TTA CCG CCT Pro Met Gly Glu Ala Ala Pro Ala Val Glu Glu Leu Lys Leu Pro Pro 250 255 260	2201
50	TAT TTG TAC TGT GTG GCG GAG AAA GAT CTG ATA AAG GAC ACT GAA ATG Tyr Leu Tyr Cys Val Ala Glu Lys Asp Leu Ile Lys Asp Thr Glu Met 265 270 275	2249
55	GAG TTT TAC GAA GCT ATG AAA AAG GGG GAA AAG GAT GTA GAG CTG TTT Glu Phe Tyr Glu Ala Met Lys Lys Gly Glu Lys Asp Val Glu Leu Phe 280 285 290 295	2297
60	ATT AAC AAT GGA GTG GGA CAT AGC TTT TAT CTT AAC AAA ATT GCT GTT Ile Asn Asn Gly Val Gly His Ser Phe Tyr Leu Asn Lys Ile Ala Val 300 305 310	2345
65	AGA ATG GAC CCT GTA ACT GGT TCT GAA ACT GAA AAA CTT TAT GAA GCC Arg Met Asp Pro Val Thr Gly Ser Glu Thr Glu Lys Leu Tyr Glu Ala 315 320 325	2393
70	GTT GCA GAG TTC ATC AAC AAG CAT TA AAAGGAGAAA ATTTGTGGTT Val Ala Glu Phe Ile Asn Lys His 330 335	2439
75	TTGCAGAATA TTTGTTGTT GCATGCATGT TCAAGATTGT GATGTACCGT CTTGATTGTC ACGTTCTAAT GGTTTGAA TTATAATTAT GAGGAGTAAA TTTCTATTGT TGCGTAGAAA TGTGTTTCT TTGGTAGTAA ATGTTTATTG GTAATACTTT AAAAAGTGGA CAAATTCTT TTGAGATTCA TGAAATAATA TCTTAAATT TCGAATGTCA ATAAGTCCAG AAATTGAAAT GTATCTGTAC CGTCAATGAA GTCTCCTTGA GGCTTTTTT CACATGATAT CGTCTATACC	2499 2559 2619 2679 2739

ACCAAAAAAGT TTGATAAGCT ATACAATATG AGATTCTCG

2778

## 5 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 2:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:  
 (A) LENGTH: 335 amino acids  
 (B) TYPE: amino acid  
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

10 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

## (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2:

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 1 5 10 15

15 Val Phe Glu Asp Gly Ser Val Asp Arg Thr Trp Thr Gly Pro Pro Glu  
 20 25 30

Val Lys Phe Met Ala Glu Pro Val Pro Pro His Asp Tyr Phe Ile Asp  
 35 40 45

20 Gly Val Ala Val Lys Asp Val Val Ala Asp Glu Lys Ser Gly Ser Arg  
 50 55 60

Leu Arg Ile Tyr Leu Pro Glu Arg Asn Asp Asn Ser Ala Ser Lys Leu  
 65 70 75 80

25 Pro Val Ile Leu His Phe Gln Gly Gly Phe Cys Val Ser His Ala  
 85 90 95

Asp Trp Phe Met Tyr Tyr Thr Val Tyr Thr Arg Leu Ala Arg Ala Ala  
 100 105 110

30 Lys Ala Ile Ile Val Ser Val Phe Leu Pro Leu Ala Pro Glu His Arg  
 115 120 125

Leu Pro Ala Ala Cys Asp Ala Gly Phe Ala Ala Leu Leu Trp Leu Arg  
 130 135 140

35 Asp Leu Ser Arg Gln Gln Gly His Glu Pro Trp Leu Asn Asp Tyr Ala  
 145 150 155 160

Asp Phe Asn Arg Val Phe Leu Ile Gly Asp Ser Ser Gly Gly Asn Ile  
 165 170 175

40 Val His Gln Val Ala Val Lys Ala Gly Glu Glu Asn Leu Ser Pro Met  
 180 185 190

Arg Leu Ala Gly Ala Ile Pro Ile His Pro Gly Phe Val Arg Ser Tyr  
 195 200 205

45 Arg Ser Lys Ser Glu Leu Glu Gln Glu Gln Thr Pro Phe Leu Thr Leu  
 210 215 220

Asp Met Val Asp Lys Phe Leu Gly Leu Ala Leu Pro Val Gly Ser Asn  
 225 230 235 240

Lys Asp His Gln Ile Thr Cys Pro Met Gly Glu Ala Ala Pro Ala Val  
 245 250 255

50 Glu Glu Leu Lys Leu Pro Pro Tyr Leu Tyr Cys Val Ala Glu Lys Asp  
 260 265 270

Leu Ile Lys Asp Thr Glu Met Glu Phe Tyr Glu Ala Met Lys Lys Gly  
 275 280 285

55 Glu Lys Asp Val Glu Leu Phe Ile Asn Asn Gly Val Gly His Ser Phe

290	295	300
Tyr Leu Asn Lys Ile Ala Val Arg Met Asp Pro Val Thr Gly Ser Glu		
305	310	315
5		320
Thr Glu Lys Leu Tyr Glu Ala Val Ala Glu Phe Ile Asn Lys His		
325	330	335

## (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 3:

- 10           (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:  
               (A) LENGTH: 93 base pairs  
               (B) TYPE: nucleic acid  
               (C) STRANDEDNESS: single  
               (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown
- 15           (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: genomic DNA  
               (iii) HYPOTHETICAL: NO  
               (iii) ANTI-SENSE: NO
- 20           (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 3:

TTTGCCAAAA TGGTTCATGA AAAGCAAGTG ATAGAGGAAG TATCCGGCTG GCTTAGAGTT	60
TTCGGGGTAG GTCAGTCCCT TATGTTACGT CCT	93

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**Claims**

- 30     1. A recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising the nucleotide sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent.
- 35     2. A recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 1413 to 2417 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent.
- 40     3. A recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 1 to 1341 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent.
- 45     4. A recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 1 to 651 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent.
- 50     5. A recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 652 to 1341 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent.
- 55     6. A recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 1195 to 1341 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent.
7. A recombinant DNA sequence including a region comprising nucleotides 1195 to 1268 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof, or a recombinant sequence comprising a part of said region or said equivalent.
- 55     8. A recombinant DNA sequence comprising at least one region or part or equivalent thereof, according to any one of claims 3 to 7, wherein said region or part or equivalent is located on the 5' side of, and is op-

erably linked to, a protein-encoding sequence of a heterologous gene or to a sequence comprising nucleotides 1413 to 2417 of the sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 1 or a functional equivalent thereof.

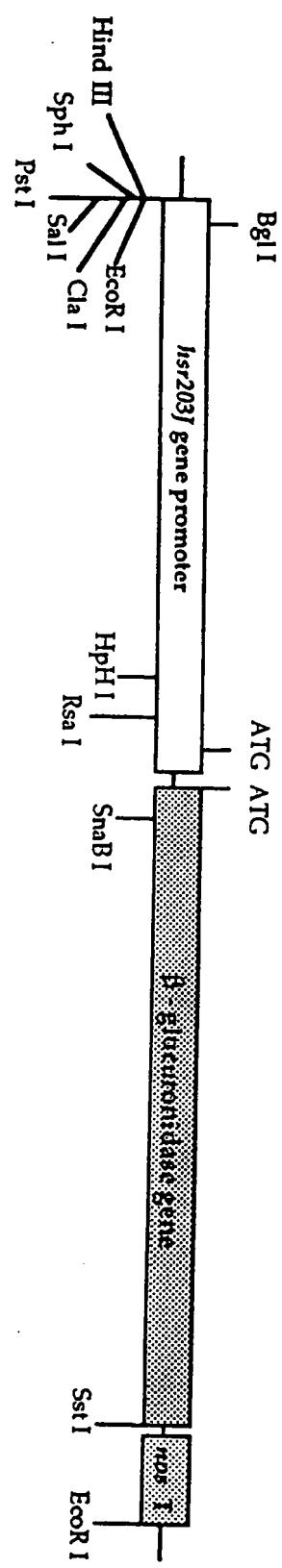
- 5        9. A recombinant DNA sequence according to the preceding claim, wherein a translation enhancing sequence is present between the region or part or equivalent thereof, and the protein-encoding region of the DNA sequence 3' thereto.
- 10      10. A recombinant DNA sequence according to either of claims 8 or 9, wherein the heterologous gene is a selectable or screenable marker gene or a gene, the product of which is capable of conferring resistance or tolerance to at least one of the following: insects, herbicides, fungi, bacteria and viruses.
- 15      11. A recombinant DNA sequence according to any preceding claim, wherein one or more nucleotides have been added to, removed from or substituted in the recombinant sequence without substantially affecting the function or amino acid encoding capability thereof.
- 20      12. Recombinant DNA according to any one of claims 1 to 11, which is modified in that codons which are preferred by the organism into which the recombinant DNA is to be inserted are used so that expression of the thus modified DNA in the said organism yields substantially similar protein to that obtained by expression of the unmodified recombinant DNA in the organism in which the protein-encoding components of the recombinant DNA are endogenous.
- 25      13. A DNA sequence which is complementary to one which, under stringent conditions, hybridizes to the recombinant DNA sequence according to any one of claims 1 to 12.
- 30      14. A DNA vector comprising a recombinant DNA sequence according to any one of claims 1 to 12, or a DNA sequence according to claim 13.
- 35      15. Protein obtained by expression of the DNA according to any one of claims 1 to 13.
- 40      16. Protein having the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 2, or a functional equivalent of said sequence.
- 45      17. A micro-organism or plant cell or protoplast which has been transformed with recombinant DNA according to any one of claims 1 to 11, or a DNA sequence according to claim 12.
- 50      18. A plant, the genome of which comprises a vector according to claim 14, in which plant the recombinant DNA is expressed.
- 55      19. A plant according to the preceding claim selected from the group consisting of: tomatoes, peppers, mangoes, peaches, apples, pears, strawberries, bananas, melons, canola, sunflower, tobacco, sugar beet, wheat, barley, rice, corn, cotton, potato, carrot, lettuce, cabbage and onion.
- 60      20. The progeny or seeds of plants according to either of claims 18 or 19, and the seeds and progeny of said progeny.

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**A.** pHG 21

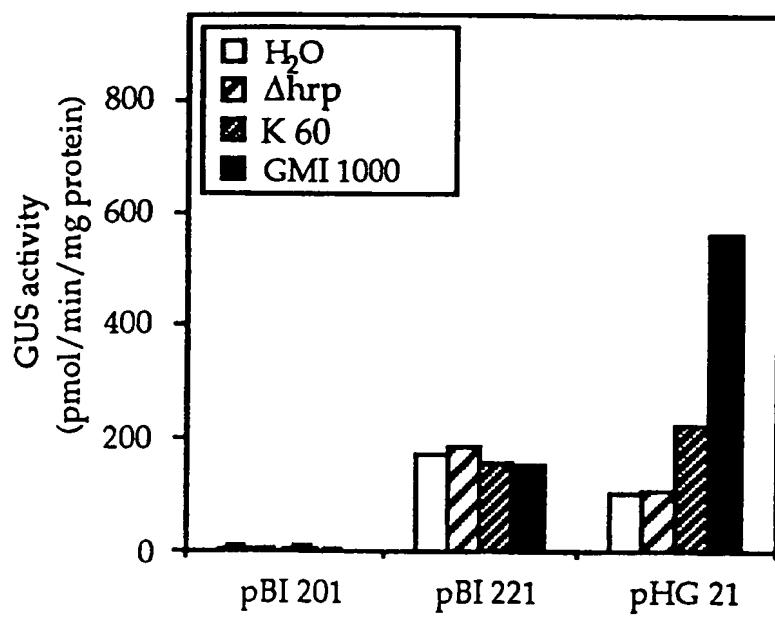


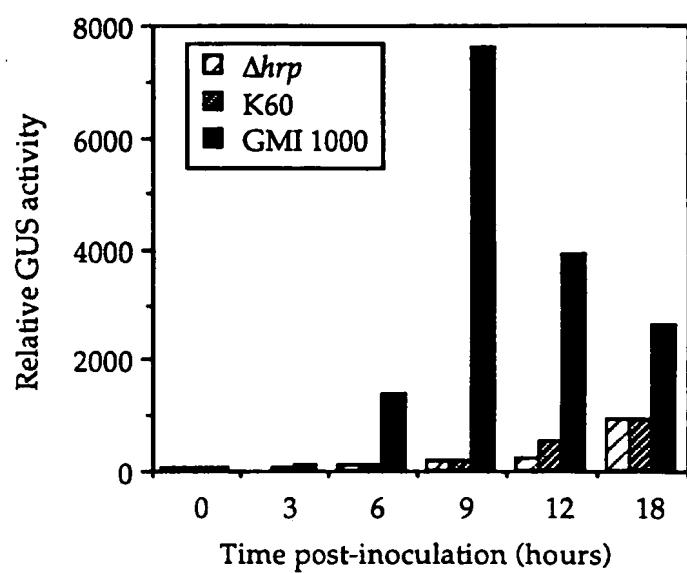
**B.**

Translational fusion sequence:...TTT GCC AAA ATG GTT CAT GAA AAG CAA GTG ATA GAC  
GAA GTA TCC GGCTGG CTT AGA GTT TTC GGG GTA GGT CAG TCC CTT ATG TTA CGT CCT...

Fig. 1

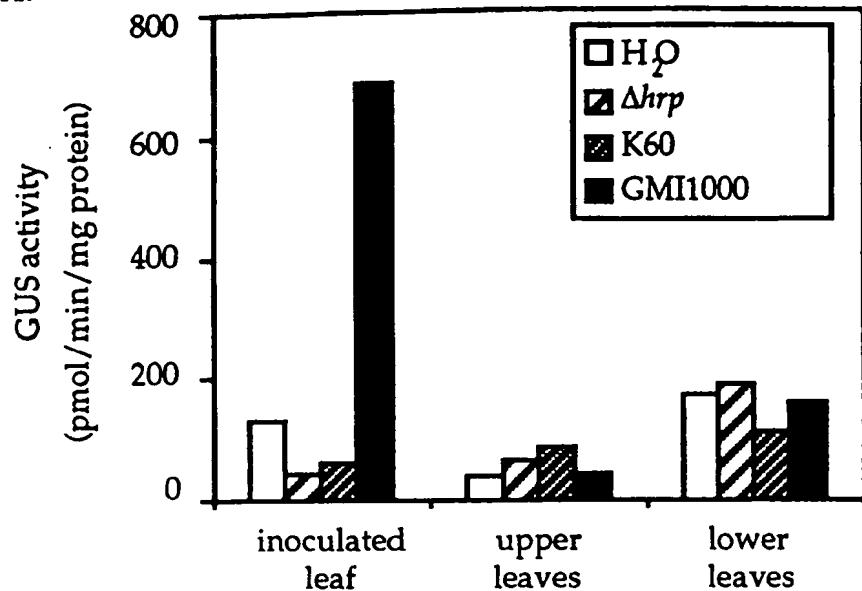
**Fig. 2**



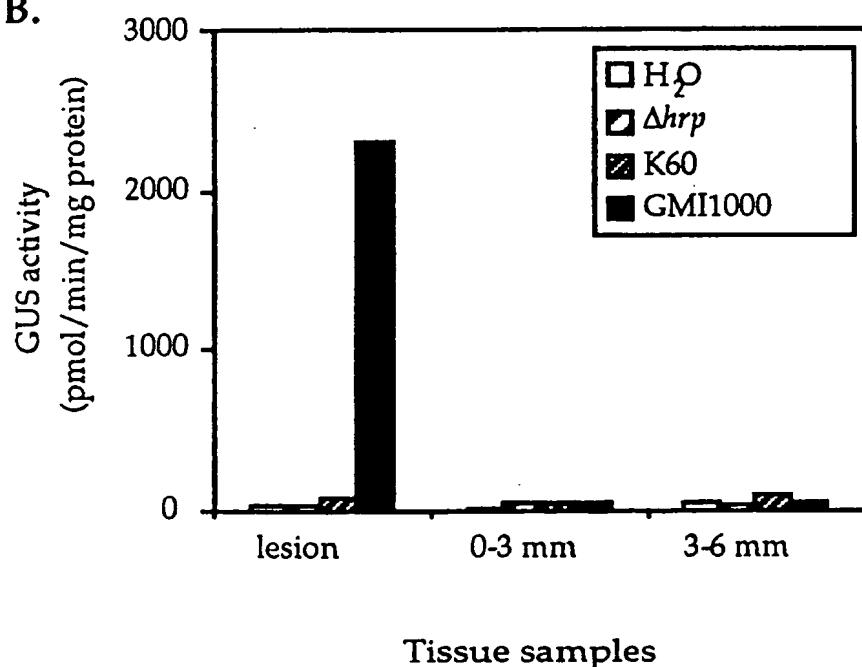


**Fig. 3**

A.



B.



Tissue samples

Fig. 4

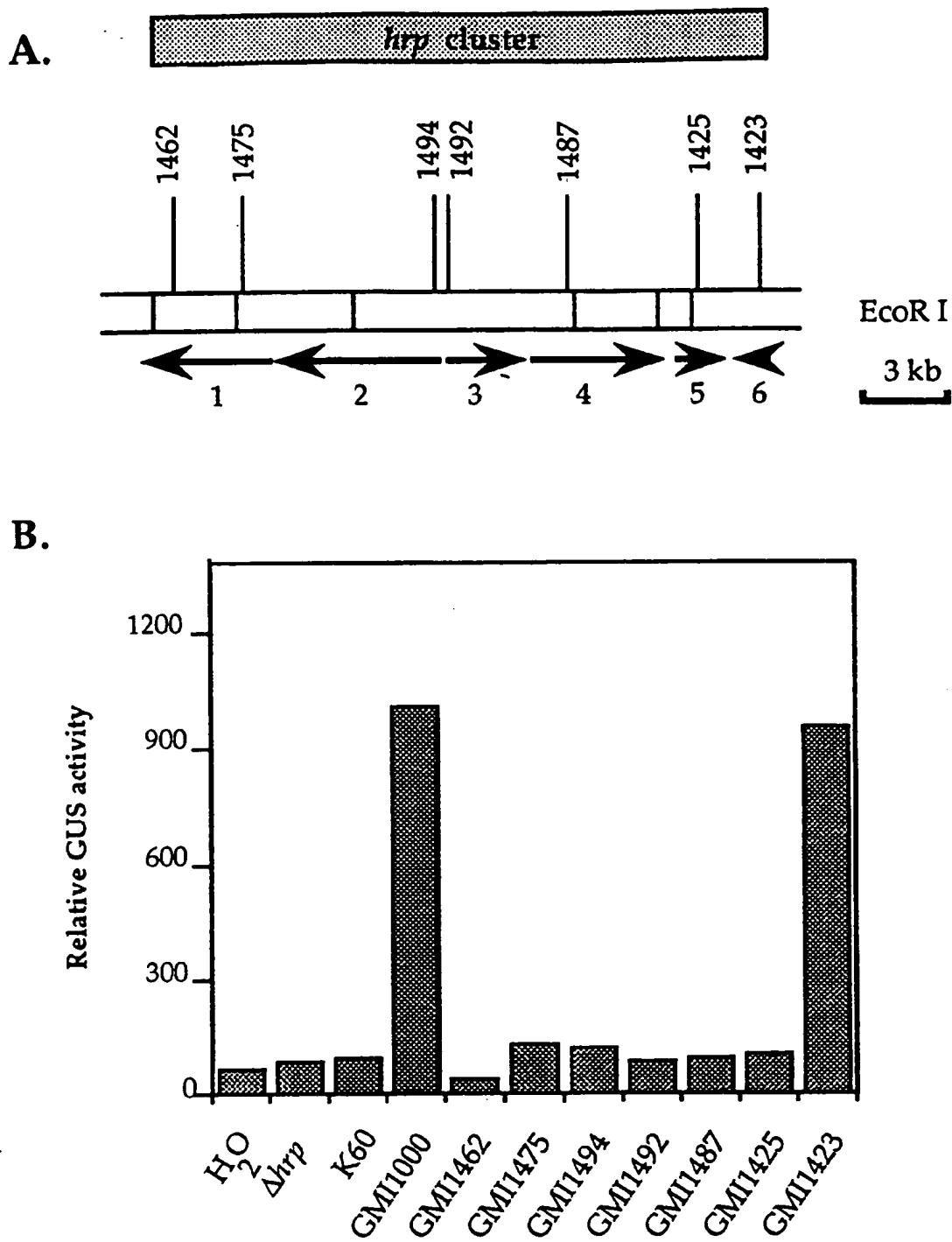
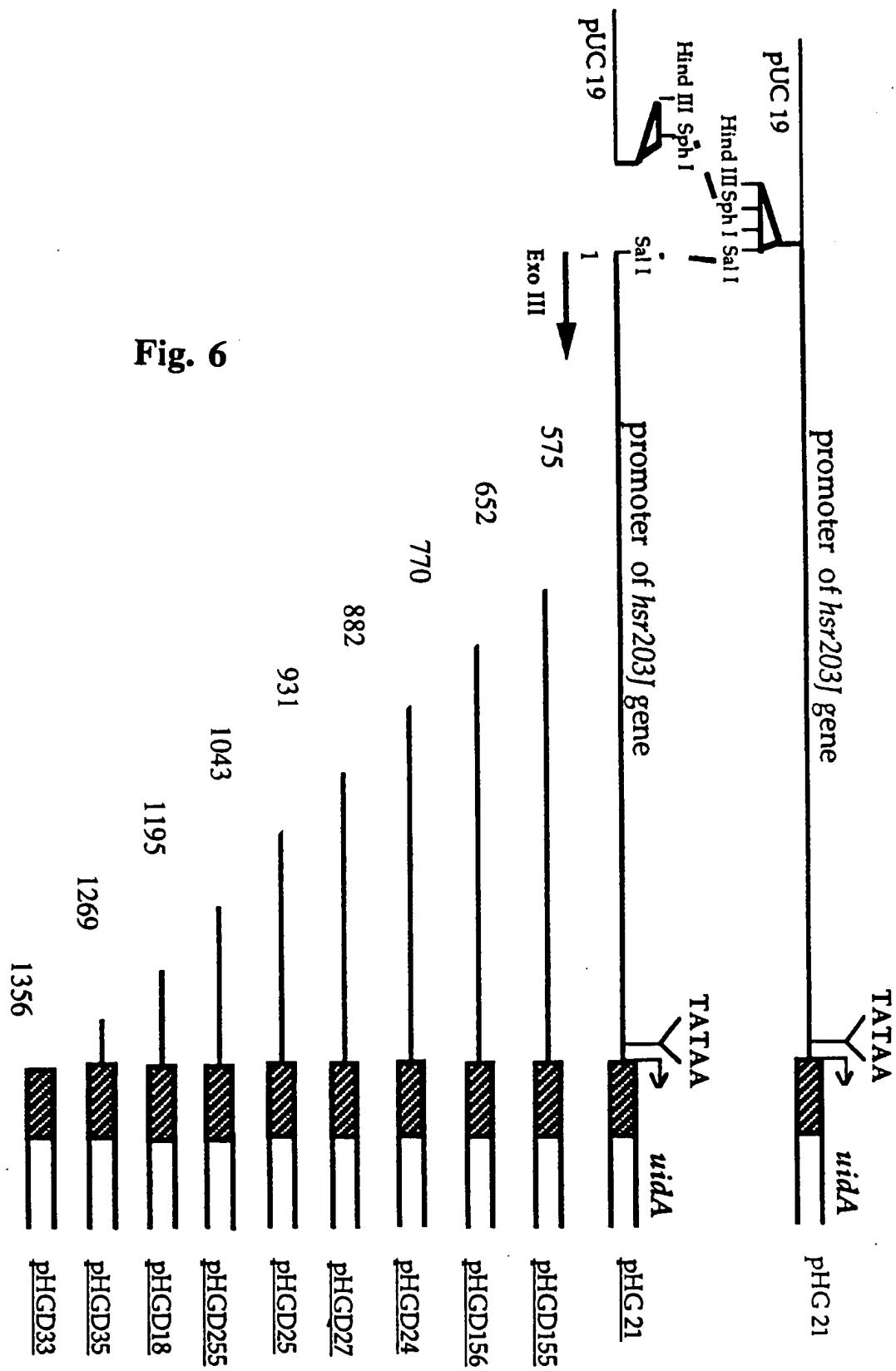


Fig. 5



**Fig. 6**

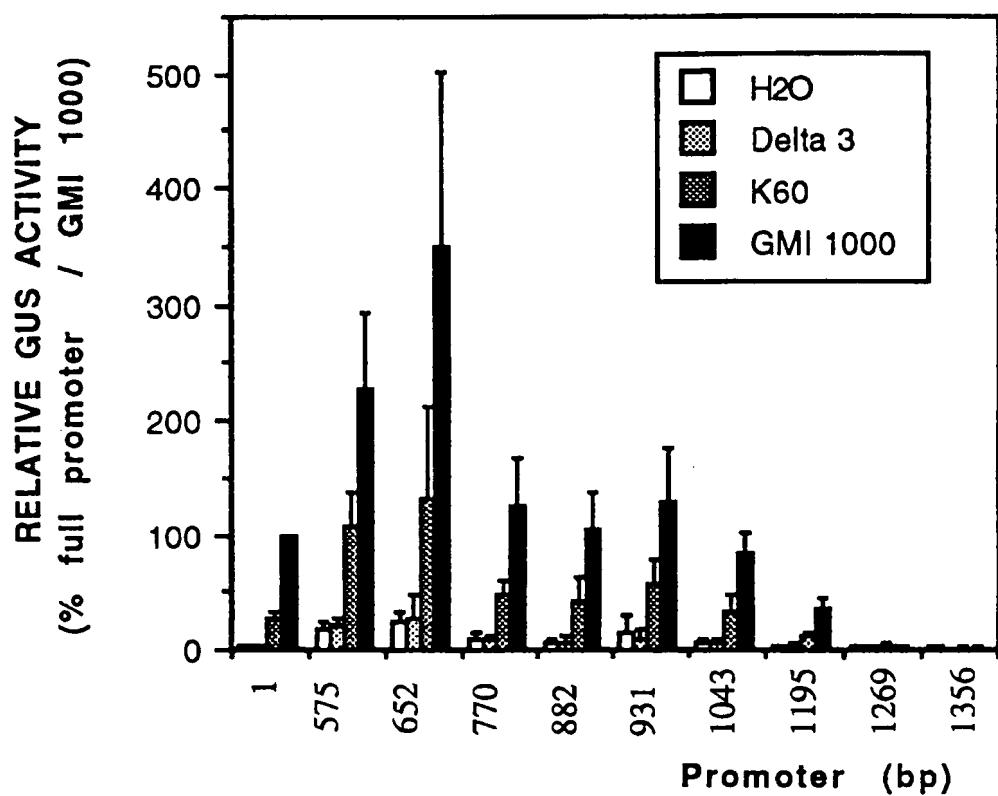


Fig. 7